



Preservation South Carolina

*Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting the Historic
Structures of South Carolina*

A Non-Profit Membership Organization Working for South Carolinians Since 1990

Headlines + Happenings

March 31, 2023



Blue Branch Church of Sharon, SC Sacred Spaces Series

Blue Branch Presbyterian Church, located in the Bullock's Creek community of Sharon, was established shortly after the Civil War, by freedman Reverend Baker Russell. This was the first Black church in the area and has been historically referred to as the "mother church" of the western York County African-American institutions. The church, formally organized in 1870-71, was a part of the northern Presbyterian mission to southern freedmen.

Reverend Baker Russell was the first minister of Blue Branch, and the church had as many as 120 members, including Sunday school services. The original church was likely log, but has long since been razed. The present building was erected in 1945.

For at least a century, Blue Branch was a spiritual

resource for Black residents of the Bullock Creek area.

While the church is no longer active, each year (except for COVID years), a memorial homecoming worship service is held on the first Sunday afternoon in September. Descendants and friends return to share in this celebration.



Blue Branch is currently in the beginning stages of working toward a listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

Landmark Conference | April 13-15, 2023

Save the date for the annual Landmark Conference held by the Confederation of SC Local Historical Societies and hosted this year at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. Topics range from the SC Liberty Trail Project, Archaeology at Friendfield Village in Hobcaw Barony, SC Genealogy, and much more!

[Learn more & register here](#)

SC Historic Preservation Conference | April 28, 2023

Registration is open for the 2023 Historic Preservation Conference held by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. This conference features topics on SC history, historic properties, and current historic preservation issues. Preservation SC is excited to participate with a session titled, Historic Preservation: The Art of Making a Difference in South Carolina's Smaller Communities.

[Learn more & register here](#)

Union County Historical Society - "Flight of Jefferson Davis" Living History & Reenactment Program | April 28-30, 2023

The Union County Historical Society presents the reenactment of President Jefferson Davis' stop at the Cross Keys House, offering the opportunity for visitors to learn 19th century trade skills, military history, and more.

[Learn more & register here](#)



Red Doe Plantation Florence, SC PSC Easement Program

Built ca. 1840 for Evander A. Gregg, Red Doe Plantation is a one-story, southern vernacular farmhouse that still retains much of its nineteenth century features. The house was named "Red Doe" in the 1930s, in reference to an incident

during the Revolution when Patriot Andrew Hunter escaped the Loyalists on "Red Doe", the horse belonging to a Loyalist Colonel.

Since 2013, the grounds have been utilized as a wedding and event venue. Listed in the [National Register](#) on October 29, 1982, this historic home is fully

restored and is for SALE to a preservation-minded owner. Preservation South Carolina holds a Preservation easement on this property, covenants apply. [Listing information here](#)

St. Helena Island PSC Advocacy



St. Helena Island's Cultural Protection Overlay, dedicated towards protecting the island's cultural heritage, is at risk. The recently proposed development on 450+ acres of the island calls for three separate 6-hole golf courses and a gated community. At present, the overlay does not allow for golf courses, gated communities, or resorts in order to prevent the gentrification and loss of Gullah Geechee culture and land.

In November of 2022, Boston-based developer, Elvio Tropeano, submitted a zoning map amendment to the overlay that would exclude the projected location of the golf courses and gated community. Tropeano withdrew the request before being heard by the Planning Commission. Instead, county administrators proposed new overlay language that would allow for development agreements with the county.

These text amendments to the overlay, will if approved, pose a direct threat not only to important historically significant sites, some known and some yet undiscovered, but to landscapes important to Gullah culture, one of South Carolina's most distinctive cultural expressions.



What are the next steps?

On April 10th, the county's newly formed Cultural Protection Overlay District Committee will meet to consider the text changes. This meeting, located at 100 Ribaut Rd. Beaufort, SC, will be open to the public.

We stand with the island's community many other groups, including [Penn Center](#), and the [Coastal Conservation League](#), in opposing this development.

We ask that you stand with us to protect the heritage of St. Helena Island. You can show your support in just a few

easy ways.

- Sign and share [these petitions](#)
- Send a message to County Council [here](#)
- Express your support by attending the County Land Use Committee meeting on April 10th at 3pm at 100 Ribaut Rd., Beaufort, SC

Visit www.ProtectStHelenaIsland to learn more!



Last Call for Nominations

Nominations are due for the 2023 SC Historic Preservation Awards!

Each year thousands of South Carolinians work to preserve the state's legacy that is reflected in our historic buildings, structures, and sites.

Since 1995, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Preservation South Carolina, and the Office of the Governor have recognized exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage with a series of statewide awards.

Award categories: Honor Awards, Stewardship Awards, Preservation Service Awards, Heritage Tourism Award, and the Governor's Award. *Deadline is April 1, 2023.*

[Nomination Form](#)

We can't do all of this amazing work without your continued support. Please join us in our efforts to ensure South Carolina's historic places are not lost!

[DONATE](#)

[JOIN](#)

Our Mailing Address:
Preservation South Carolina
PO Box 506
Prosperity, SC 29127